

Message Text

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67

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-20 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 L-03 H-03 DRC-01 /111 W

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R 101754Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0255

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05860

BRUSSELS FOR CAA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, UK, FR

SUBJ: CONCORDE

REF: PARIS 10732

1. LONDON TIMES MAY 10 CARRIES REPORT THAT FUTURE OF CONCORDE PROJECT WILL BE DISCUSSED BY UK CABINET ON MAY 13 AND THAT DECISION AS TO WHETHER UK WILL CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR PROJECT MAY BE REACHED BY MAY 16. ACCORDING TO REPORT, CABINET REMAINS DIVIDED ON CONCORDE QUESTION WITH CHANCELLOR OF EXCHEQUER HEALEY FAVORING CANCELLATION AND SECSTATE FOR INDUSTRY BENN ADVOCATING CONTINUATION. ARTICLE ASSERTS THAT ODDS APPEAR SLIGHTLY IN FAVOR OF CANCELLATION.

2. WE ASKED UKG CONCORDE OFFICIAL ABOUT NEWSPAPER REPORT. HE DENIED THAT CABINET DECISION IMMINENT AND IMPLIED THAT DECISION NOT LIKELY UNTIL AFTER NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT FORMED AND UKG HAS HAD OPPORTUNITY TAKE A SOUNDING ON DEGREE OF SUPPORT FOR CONCORDE IN GOF. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR ASSESSMENT OF
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SITUATION. IF UK FINDS GOF HAS LOST ENTHUSIASM FOR

CONCORDE, ITS OWN DECISION WILL BE EASIER TO MAKE BUT
IN MEANTIME, BRITISH WILL DO NOTHING THAT MIGHT PLACE
ONUS ON THEM FOR KILLING PROJECT. THIS WOULD MEAN THAT
FIRST MEETING OF BRITISH AND FRENCH MINISTERS AFTER
FRENCH ELECTIONS LIKELY TO BE INDECISIVE.

SOHM

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Message Attributes

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